



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

June 15, 2020

Memorandum

To: Lars Herbst, Gulf of Mexico Regional Director
Michael Idziorek, Chief (Acting), Safety and Incident Investigations Division

From: Scott A. Angelle
Director

Subject: Review of Panel Report for West Cameron 215

I have reviewed the Panel report *Investigation of February 17, 2018, Fatality West Cameron Block 215 Platform "A" Lease No G-04087 Gulf of Mexico Region, Lake Charles District Off Louisiana Coast*. The report presents a number of findings and conclusions arising from the work being done to remove an out of service firewater piping system. This work included cutting the firewater pipe into pieces and lowering each piece over 30 feet. The fatality occurred when manila rope being used to assist in lowering a piece of pipe snapped without warning, and a rigger, who was positioned below where the pieces were being lowered, was struck in the head by the falling pipe. Despite wearing a hardhat, the blow to the rigger from the pipe was fatal. I thank the Panel for its work, accept the report and am directing that follow-up actions be taken in response to the Panel findings.

The Panel's recommendations underscore the importance of placing safety first in every job being undertaken on a facility – no matter how routine. The recommendations also draw attention to the importance of communication between the operator and its contractors and oversight by the operator to ensure that established Safe Work Practices (SWP) are being followed.

I direct the Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs (OORP), in collaboration with the Gulf of Mexico Regional staff, to:

- Issue a safety alert regarding the most significant findings of the Panel investigation and provide recommendations for preventing a similar incident from occurring.
- Initiate a directed SEMS audit focusing on the level of implementation and field validation of Talos Energy's contractor safety management program, SWP and any other elements as identified by Talos Energy leadership.

I direct the Gulf of Mexico Region, Office of Incident Investigations (OII), in collaboration with appropriate regional offices and the Safety and Incident Investigations Division (SIID), to:

- Develop and implement a process to enhance situational awareness of offshore operators and contractors regarding results of BSEE investigations. I request that a work plan with milestones for this directed action be submitted to me and the Chief, SIID within 30 days of this memorandum.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding what my expectations are. I again thank the Panel for its effort in this investigation.

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